THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India is participating in the negotiations on a Joint Implementation Agreement as a full member. The Agreement is still at a drafting stage.

(c) ITER venture has seven parties, *viz.,* the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM), the Governments of the People's Republic of China, Republic of India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. ITER aims to provide the integration step necessary to establish scientific and technical feasibility of fusion as an energy resource.

Visit of Sri Lankan President

447. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan President visited India between 27 and 30 December, 2005 and held talks with the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held between them;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) the number of MoUs signed by both the countries;

(e) the complete details thereof;

(f) whether the Sri Lankan President had invited the P.M. of India to visit their country; and

(g) if so, the comments of the PM in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The two leaders reviewed bilateral cooperation and measures to consolidate and strengthen it. President Rajapaksa briefed the Prime Minister on his approach to the peace process and the Prime Minister reiterated India's support for a process of seeking a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka and consistent with democracy,

pluralism and respect of human rights. President Rajapaksa reaffirmed Sri Lanka's support for India's candidature for permanent membership of the UNSC.

(d) Nil.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) Yes, the Sri Lankan President invited the President and the Prime Minister of India to visit Sri Lanka at mutually convenient dates.

Loans to wind power sector

448. SHRIC. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has decided to include loans given to the wind power sector under priority sector lending;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Ministry of Finance to instruct Reserve Bank of India in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF **NON-**CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Indian Wind Power Association had approached the Reserve Bank of India directly in September 2005 and in response the Reserve Bank of India has observed that if infrastructure sector, to which wind power belongs, were to be included under priority sector lending then other segments of the priority sector (particularly the small borrowers) might be affected.